

DUXBURY BEACH

Board hails 'comprehensive' beach plan

By John Chaffee
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DUXBURY — An updated management plan for Duxbury Beach drew rave reviews from selectmen last night.

"We now have in one document just about everything anybody might want to know about the beach," said Selectman James Murphy.

"I was overwhelmed by the amount of information in here," said Selectman Margaret Kearney, who wrote the original beach management plan six years ago.

"An excellent and comprehensive job," said Chairman Friend Weiler of the 70-page document.

Because Duxbury Beach is owned by a private nonprofit group, the Duxbury Beach Reserva-

tion, Inc., and not by the town, the management plan includes both public and private responsibilities, said Lester Smith, a member of the town's nine-member beach committee.

The town leases a portion of the beach from the reservation for \$100,000 annually and assumes responsibility for how people use the beach, Smith said.

The reservation retains responsibility for the material side of beach management, such as maintaining roadways, erecting fencing, planting beachgrass, restoring dunes, Smith said.

In addition to a detailed history and description of the 4½-mile barrier beach, the management plan includes all the environmental laws and regulations that govern beach activities, spells out the rules for off-road vehicle access to

the beach, describes how endangered species of piping plovers and terns are protected, how the beach is physically maintained and restored and reviews a variety of public education programs designed to promote beach preservation.

"This is one of the few beaches in the state that's open to off-road vehicles while still protecting endangered species," Smith said.

The beach committee, which is appointed by the town moderator, is expected to report on the plan at the annual town meeting Saturday.

Kay Foster, co-chairwoman of the beach committee, said copies of the new management plan will be available for public viewing at the town clerk's office, conservation commission, selectmen/town manager's office, harbormaster's office, police station and public library.

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